<u>REMARKS</u>

By this Preliminary Amendment, all multiple dependencies in the claims have been deleted.

Favorable action is courteously solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees associated with this communication and during the pendency of the application under 37 CFR 1.16 and 37 CFR 1.17 or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 082670.

Respectfully submitted,

February 1, 2006

Reg. No. 20766

Customer No. 25628

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